

**Claims (Amended)**

1. (currently amended) A bioabsorbable surgical sponge operable for the intraoperative ~~absorption~~ absorption of blood from within an open surgical site within a patient, the surgical sponge comprising a porous body consisting of a bioabsorbable material wherein said bioabsorbable material is selected from the group consisting of copolymers of lactide, caprolactone, polydioxanone, trimethylene carbonate, polyorthoesters and polyethylene oxide.
2. (canceled)
3. (canceled)